

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 /081 W

-----010368 280949Z /15

R 280800Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6943

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0344

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, BY, CU, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE REACTION TO CUBAN EMBASSY

REF: BUJUMBURA 292

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE MET MARCH 23 WITH FWADI KANYANGA, ZAIRE'S CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, TO DISCUSS OPENING CUBAN EMBASSY. IT CLEAR ZAIROIS UNHAPPY ABOUT DEVELOPMENT

BUT NOT TO POINT OF TAKING ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. OPENING OF EMBASSY WAS DISCUSSED IN GREAT DETAIL AND ZAIROIS INFORMATION GENERALLY COINCIDED WITH OURS. KANYANGA STATES THEY BELIEVE CUBAN PRESENCE HERE WILL BE MENANCE TO SECURITY OF AZAIRE AND THAT BURUNDI'S GRANTING PERMISSION FOR OPEINING OF EMBASSY IS BASICALLY UNFRIENDLY ACT. PARTICULARLY ANNOYING TO KANYANGA IS FAILURE OF BURUNDI PRESS TO MAKE ANY MENTION OF CUBAN PRESENCE AND FUTURE EMBASSY. KANYANGA BELIEVES MAIN THRUST OF CUBAN PRESENCE WILL BE TO BUILD
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SYMPATHY AMONG MASS OF POPULATION, BUT PARTICULARLY WITHIN YOUTH BRANCH OF UPRONA, THE JRR. HE DID NOT RAISE POSSIBLE SUBVERSION IN KIVU.

3. FONMIN MUGANGA CALLED KANYANGA IN YESTERDAY (MARCH 22) TO INFORM HIM THAT CONTRARY TO GOSSIP OPENING OF CUBAN EMBASSY WAS NOT UNFRIENDLY ACT

TOWARD ZAIRE BUT SHOULD BE VIEWED STRICTLY WITHIN
BURUNDI'S POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. BURUNDI FULLY
INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY WITH
ZAIRE AND TO CONTINUE ITS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN
THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKE COUNTRIES.
MUGANGA SAID THERE WOULD BE NO ASSISTANCE FOR
FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT CUBAN INTERESTS WOULD
BE LIMITED TO CULTURAL AREAS. KANYANGA STATES HE
STRONGLY EXPRESSED ZAIRE'S UNHAPPINESS OVER CUBAN
PRESENCE, BUT MUGANGA SAID IF CUBANS BECAME PROBLEM
GRB COULD ALWAYS CONSIDER WITHDRAWING AUTHORIZATION
FOR EMBASSY.

4. COMMENT: KANYANGA STRIKES ME AS A PRETTY CANNY
DIPLOMAT AND MUCH OF CONVERSATION CONSISTED OF
DANCING AROUND OPENINGS WE GAVE EACH OTHER. AT
CLOSE OF MEETING HE ASKED ME IF I THOUGHT GRB WOULD
REVOKE APPROVAL OF EMBASSY IF ENOUGH EMBASSIES
APPLIED PRESSURE. WHEN I SAID I THOUGHT IT
TOO LATE FOR THAT, HE AGREED.
GOOLD

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